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INTELLIGENCE ANALYST~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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CONTROLCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Statements of Jose Maria Gil Robles

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 23 October 1947

25X1A6a

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN  
25X1X6 [REDACTED]

1. Jose Maria Gil Robles arrived in Paris on 20 October 1947 after having spent six days in London, where he had several meetings with Indalecio Prieto and Foreign Minister Bevin. Reportedly, Gil Robles' visit to London was made with the knowledge only of the Foreign Office, and his visit to Paris likewise was secret. He indicated that in Paris he had seen only Bidault, with whom he conferred on 20 October, and the CMT leader Juan Jose Luque Argenti.
2. Gil Robles told source in an interview which took place on 21 October that much progress had been made toward complete agreement between him and Prieto. Their remaining differences are in the matter of procedure. Prieto wants to follow the principles laid down in the Tripartite Note of March 1946, while Gil Robles considers the plebiscite called for therein impractical and dangerous, arguing that it would permit Franco to influence the outcome. Both leaders are desirous of avoiding the use of force, and they are agreed on the necessity for prompt action, both being convinced that the continuance of the status quo is serving the interests of the Communists. They agree that continued delay in ousting Franco would tend to leave the Communists the only organization strong enough to take over the government.
3. Gil Robles was skeptical regarding the possibility for effective United Nations action. He advocated coordination between the Vatican and the democratic nations, looking toward a request to be made by the Pope, backed by the democracies, that Franco withdraw. Gil Robles said that while Prieto was committed in theory to a plebiscite preliminary to the setting up of a new government, the Socialist leader was not opposed to giving Gil Robles' formula a chance.
4. The monarchist leader told source that his conversation with Bidault had followed the lines of his interview with Bevin, and that Bidault's reaction likewise was favorable. Regarding the degree of agreement which had been reached between him and the leftist elements, Gil Robles stated that he and Luque were in complete agreement and that the remaining differences between him and Prieto were mainly procedural.
5. Gil Robles stated that on his recent visit to Rome he had had a long interview with the Pope, and at the latter's behest with Magr. Tardini, who is in charge of extraordinary affairs in the Holy See Secretariat. He said that both the Pope and Tardini had shown great interest in his views, and he saw confirmation of this fact in the Pope's summoning of Cardinal Segura to Rome.

Document NO. 1004

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6. When source inquired concerning the nature of the coalition government to follow the ouster of Franco, Gil Robles replied that he was opposed to a coalition government because it would be heterogeneous and therefore weak. Asked how far he on the one hand and Luque and Prieto on the other had gone in agreeing on the set-up of the future government, Gil Robles replied that the government would be given democratic composition as soon as Spanish conditions permitted. He continued that Don Juan had gone on record to this effect and had promised immediate restoration of civil rights. He emphasized that the Pretender intended to take strong action to combat Communism.
7. Gil Robles said that if he were asked about meetings with Prieto and Luque, he would expressly deny that any such meetings had taken place.
8. According to source, Gil Robles was to return to Estoril on 21 October.

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 Comment: The above report is presented for the interest it may have as coming directly from Gil Robles, although it contains little concrete information that has not been published in the press.

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